



AND ON
TOP OF
THAT,
YOU'D
BECOME
THAT
BOY...

...SO
ELEONORE
WOULD
NEVER RUN
AWAY FROM
YOU!

ACT 44 - COUNTERATTACK



"TO
BECOME
HUMAN,
YOU MUST
PROTECT
A BOY."

I SEE...
YOU MANIPULATED
ELEONORE
TO CREATE
A FALSE BOND
WITH HER, DEAN.



DIE,
SHOUJI!!

EXACTLY!

AND NOW
THAT YOU'VE
CALLED HER
TO JAPAN
AND TOLD
MASARU
ABOUT HER,
I DON'T
NEED YOU
ANYMORE!



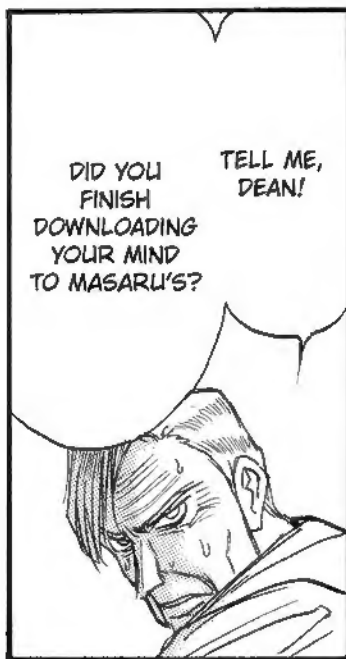
I'LL NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!

YOU BETRAYED
ANGELINA'S
TRUST AND MINE,
DEAN!



2





DID YOU
FINISH
DOWNLOADING
YOUR MIND
TO MASARU'S?

TELL ME,
DEAN!



HOW-
EVER...

TOO BAD
MY
PUPPET
CAPTAIN
NEMO
ISN'T A
HUMAN...

OHH.

AS EXPECTED
OF SOMEONE
WHO TRAINED
THE MIURA
SWORD
STYLE!



AFTER I KILL YOU,
I'LL TAKE MY SWEET
TIME TRANSFERING
MY MIND INTO THAT
CHILD'S BODY!

BEFORE
YOU LEFT
THE HOUSE,
WAS MASARU
ANY DIFFERENT?

3



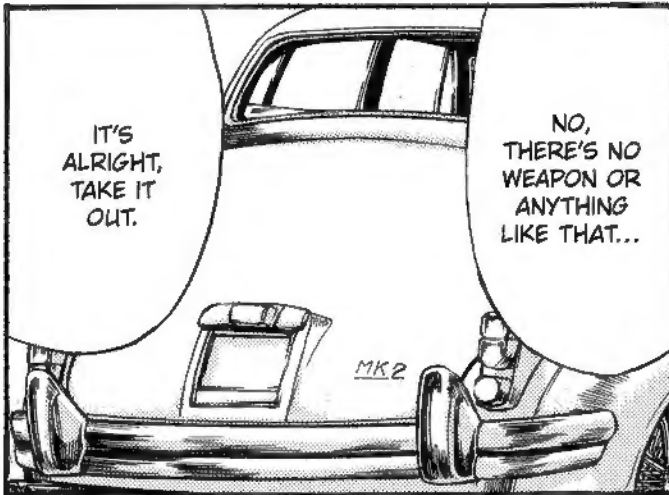
...OHH.

OH, YOU CAN STILL
AFFORD TO LAUGH?
DON'T TELL ME YOU
THINK YOU CAN
DEFEAT ME,
SHOUJI?



...I
SEE...

INCH



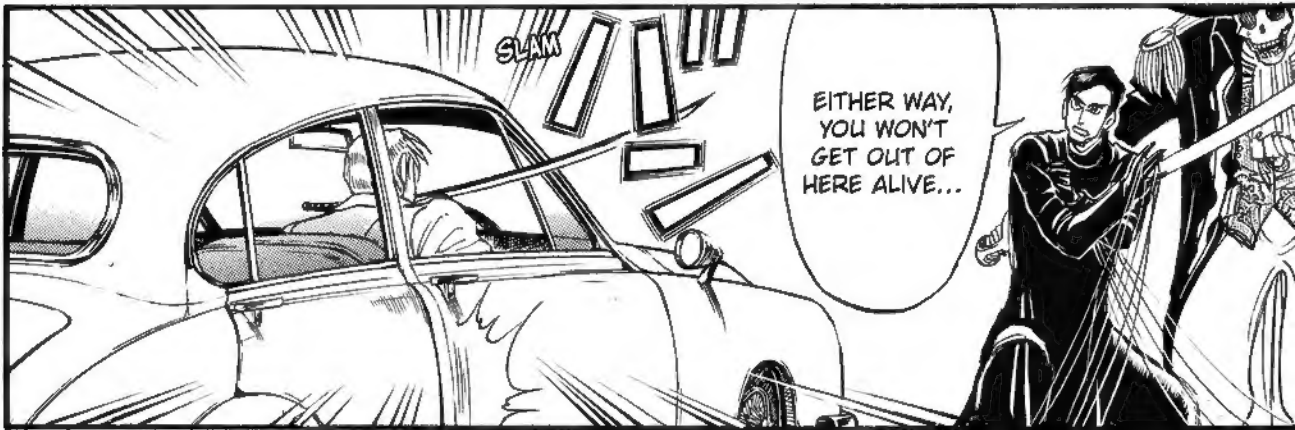
IT'S
ALRIGHT,
TAKE IT
OUT.

NO,
THERE'S NO
WEAPON OR
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT...



YOU
HAVE A
POWERFUL
WEAPON
INSIDE,
RIGHT?

THE
SOURCE
OF YOUR
CONFIDENCE
IS INSIDE
THAT
TRUNK,
HUH?



SLAM

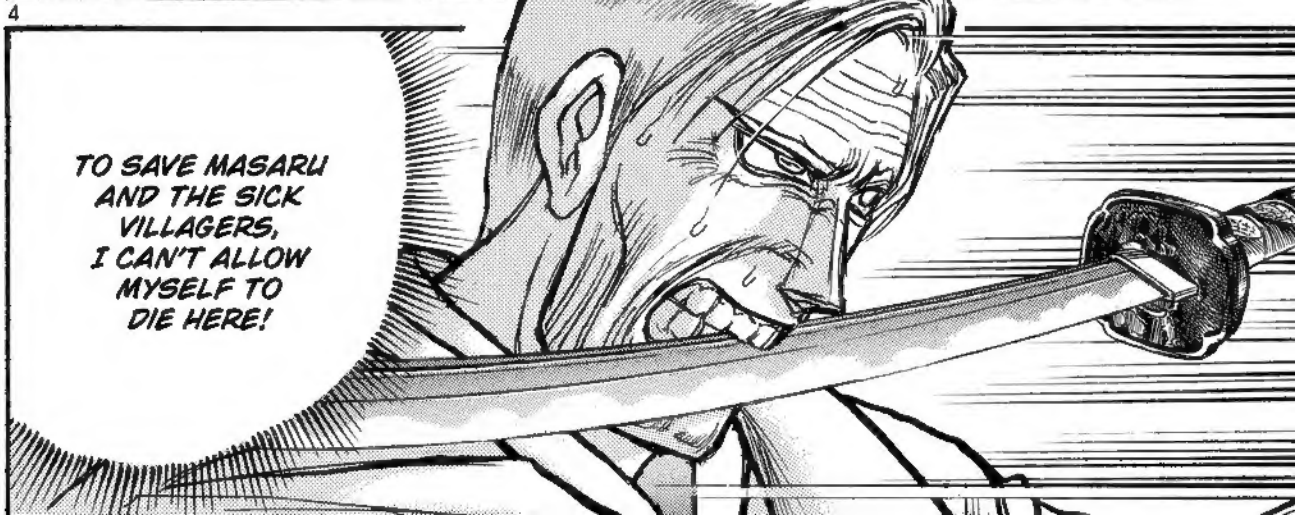
EITHER WAY,
YOU WON'T
GET OUT OF
HERE ALIVE...



I WON'T
LOSE!



RUNNING
AWAY?
HOW
NAIVE!



TO SAVE MASARU
AND THE SICK
VILLAGERS,
I CAN'T ALLOW
MYSELF TO
DIE HERE!



SCREECH



STEP



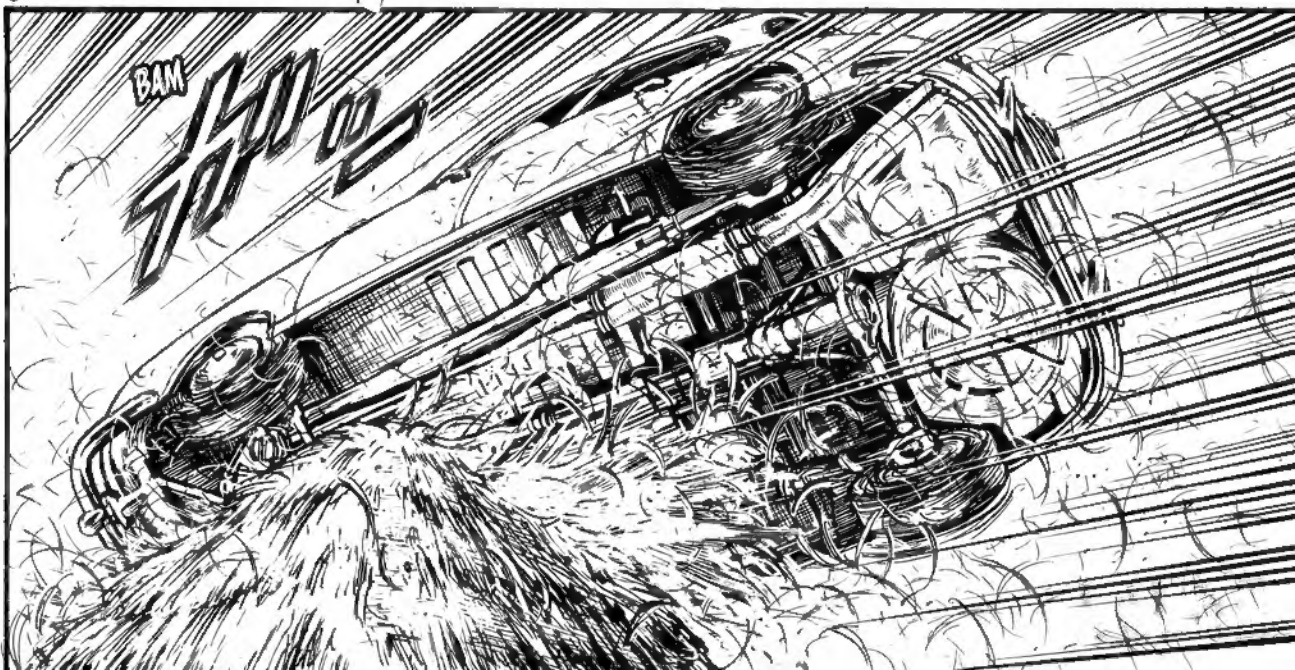
SHH

5

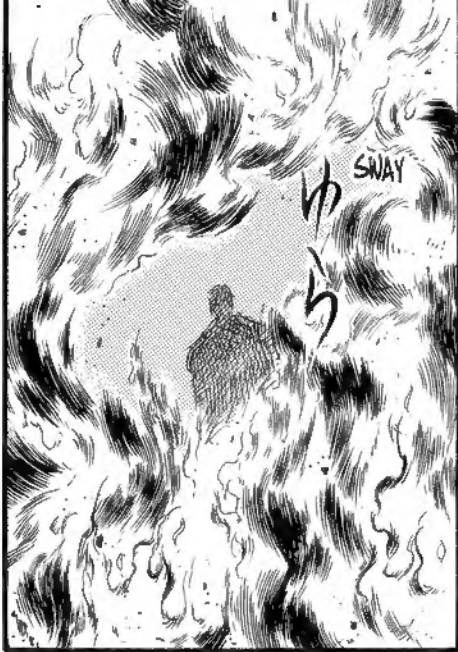


HYU
UU!









THAT
PRECIOUS
WEAPON
INSIDE
YOUR
TRUNK IS
BURNING
TO A
CRISP!

GET OUT,
SHOUJI!



THERE'S
NO WEAPON
INSIDE THE
TRUNK!



OH,
THERE
YOU
ARE...

8



YOUR
SWORD
IS IN
FLAMES
AND YOU
HAVE NO
OTHER
WEAPON.

AWW,
HOW PITIFUL...
IS THIS THE
MAN ANGELINA
FELL IN LOVE
WITH?





I PRETENDED
TO BE YOUR
FRIEND WHILE
MANIPULATING
YOU BEHIND
YOUR BACK...

AND AT
THE END,
YOU WERE
USED BY ME...

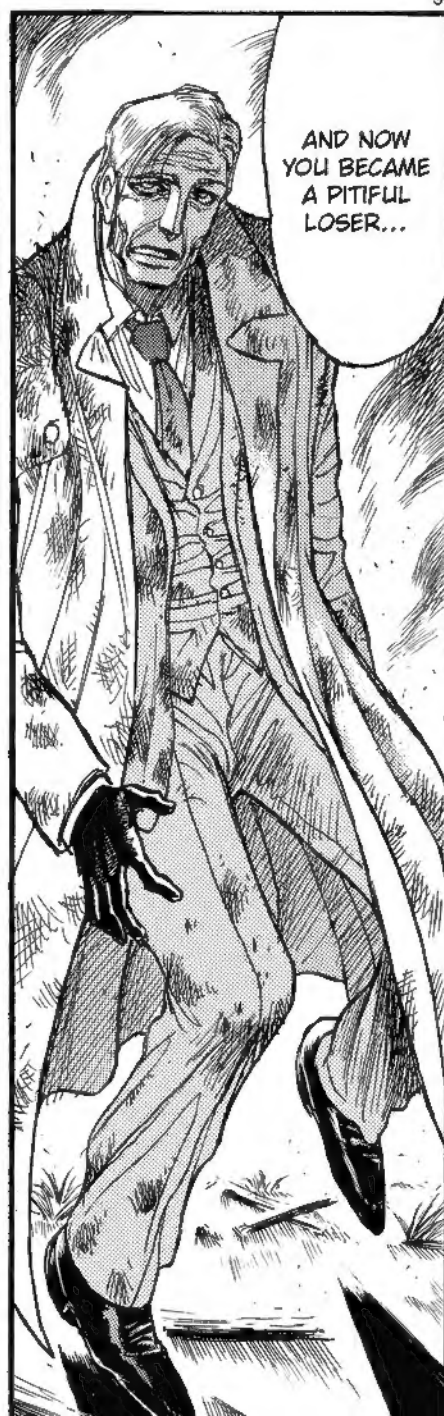


YOU NEVER
NOTICED
MY HATRED
TOWARDS
YOU...

9



ALL I HAVE
TO DO IS
PUNCH YOU
WITH
GOLERMES...



AND NOW
YOU BECAME
A PITIFUL
LOSER...



EVEN A SHIROGANE'S HEAD WILL BE SENT FLYING BY THIS PUNCH.



ALRIGHT, I'LL PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY.

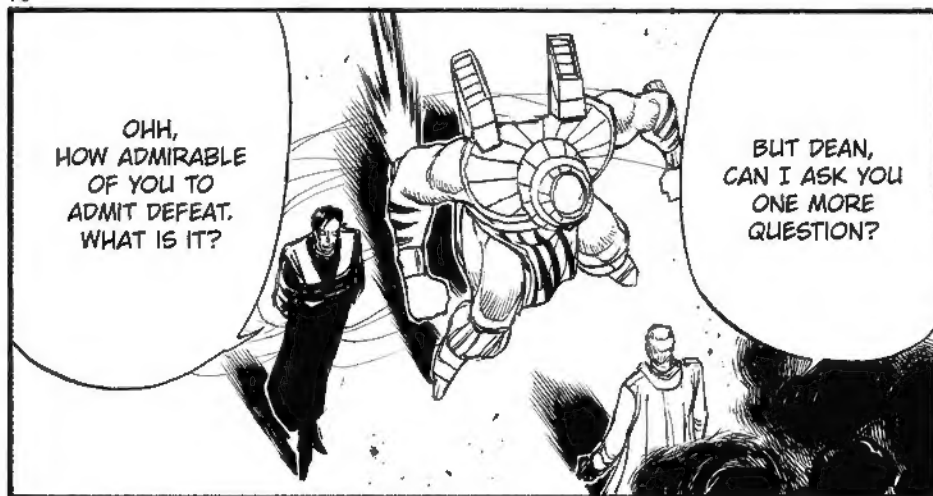
AT THIS POINT, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT PITIABLE.



IT SEEMS THAT...

...THE END CAME FOR ME AS WELL.

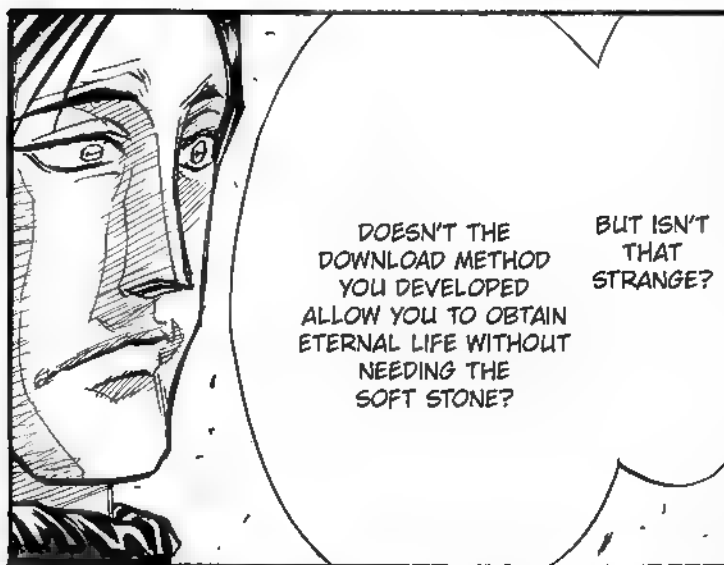
10



OH, HOW ADMIRABLE OF YOU TO ADMIT DEFEAT. WHAT IS IT?

BUT DEAN, CAN I ASK YOU ONE MORE QUESTION?

ALTHOUGH MY REAL END WAS WHEN ANGELINA PASSED AWAY...



DOESN'T THE
DOWNLOAD METHOD
YOU DEVELOPED
ALLOW YOU TO OBTAIN
ETERNAL LIFE WITHOUT
NEEDING THE
SOFT STONE?

BUT ISN'T
THAT
STRANGE?



YOU ASKED ME
WHERE THE SOFT
STONE WAS.



WHY DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW
WHERE THE
SOFT STONE
IS AT
THIS POINT?



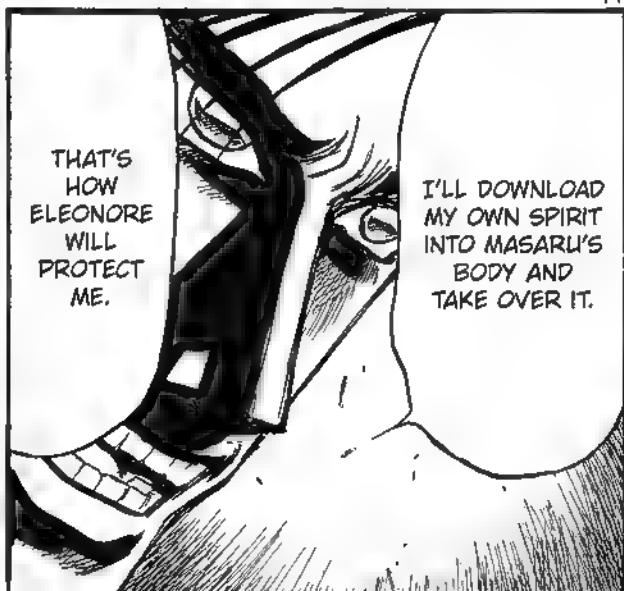
I'LL DOWNLOAD
MYSELF TO
THE BODY OF AN
ORDINARY CHILD.
I'LL AGE LIKE A
NORMAL PERSON.

BUT THINK
ABOUT IT.



YOU'RE
WITTY...

HUH
...
HOW
COMMEND-
ABLE,
SHOWJI...



THAT'S
HOW
ELEONORE
WILL
PROTECT
ME.

I'LL DOWNLOAD
MY OWN SPIRIT
INTO MASARU'S
BODY AND
TAKE OVER IT.



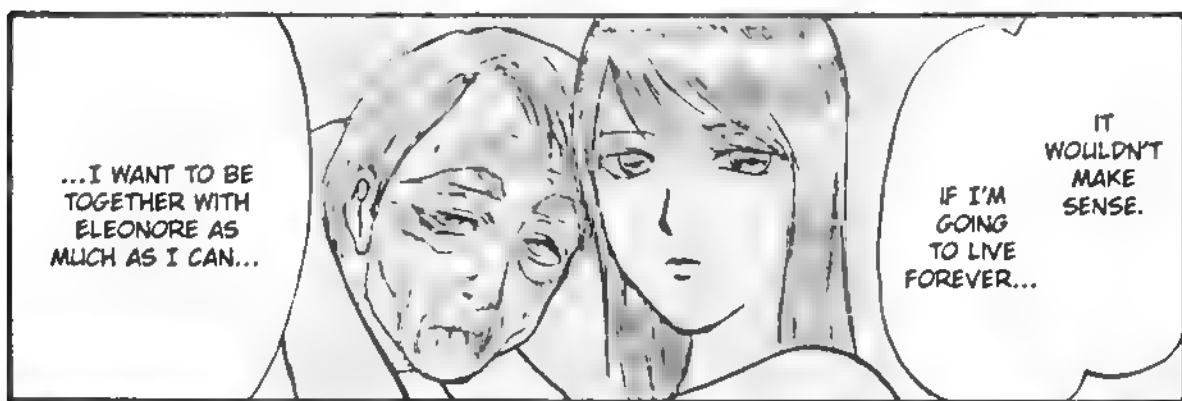
I'LL BECOME
A GEEZER
QUITE FAST,
WON'T I?

BUT ELEONORE
WILL ONLY AGE A
YEAR EVERY FIVE.



...THE DEEP BONDS
I CREATED WITH
ELEONORE WOULD
RESET IN A INSTANT.

IF I HAD TO LOOK
FOR ANOTHER
CHILD EVERYTIME
I DID THE
DOWNLOAD...



...I WANT TO BE
TOGETHER WITH
ELEONORE AS
MUCH AS I CAN...

IT
WOULDN'T
MAKE
SENSE.

IF I'M
GOING
TO LIVE
FOREVER...

12



TO LIVE
A LONG LIFE
AFTER
DRINKING THE
AQUA VITAE
MADE FROM IT.



SO I DID
NEED THE
SOFT STONE,
AFTER ALL.



BUT I
ALREADY
KNOW HOW
TO FIND IT...

I WAS THINKING
OF CAREFULLY
SEARCHING FOR
IT AFTER
DOWNLOADING
MYSELF INTO
MASARU.



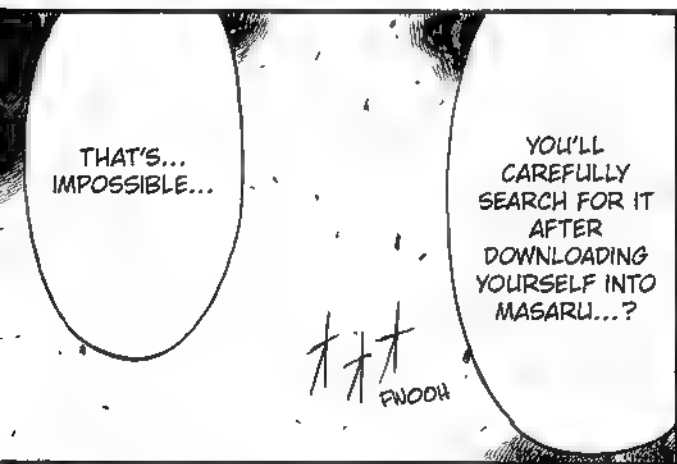
IF YOU WANT
TO TELL ME,
I'M ALL
EARS.

SHOWJI,
YOU DO
KNOW WHERE
THE SOFT
STONE IS,
RIGHT?

13



WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?
LOOK AT ME!



THAT'S...
IMPOSSIBLE...

YOU'LL
CAREFULLY
SEARCH FOR IT
AFTER
DOWNLOADING
YOURSELF INTO
MASARU...?

FWOOSH



WHAT?



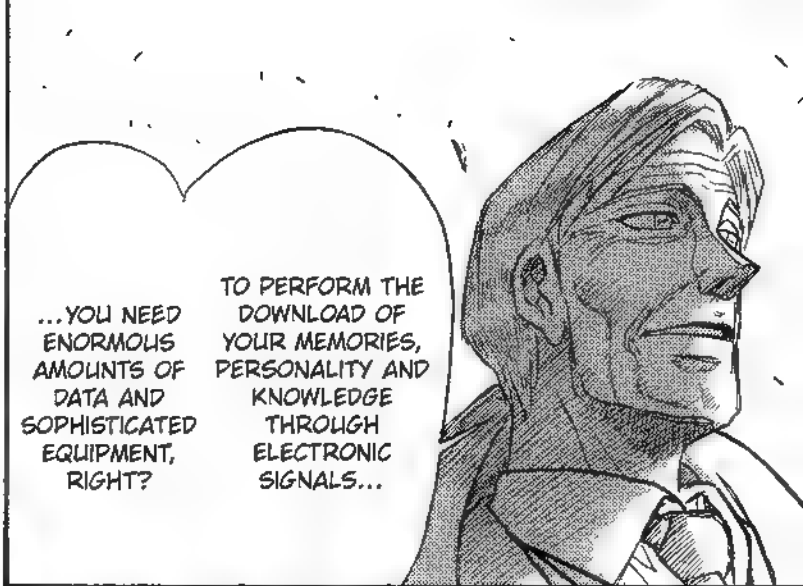
...IS
BURNING
QUITE
A LOT...

...THIS
FIRE...

GWOOSH

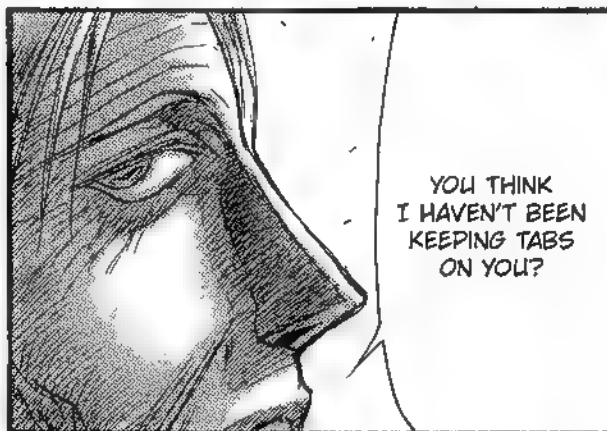


AND...
WHAT?



...YOU NEED
ENORMOUS
AMOUNTS OF
DATA AND
SOPHISTICATED
EQUIPMENT,
RIGHT?

TO PERFORM THE
DOWNLOAD OF
YOUR MEMORIES,
PERSONALITY AND
KNOWLEDGE
THROUGH
ELECTRONIC
SIGNALS...



YOU THINK
I HAVEN'T BEEN
KEEPING TABS
ON YOU?

14



SHOUJI...
YOU...

...DON'T
TELL
ME...



WHAT DO YOU
THINK IS THE
REASON FOR
THAT?

I TOOK
A WHILE
TO GET
HERE,
DIDN'T I?



I HAD MY
SUSPICIONS.
DO YOU THINK I'D
BE SUCH A FOOL
AS TO LET YOU DO
AS YOU PLEASE?



WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW?!

SHOU-
JI!!

WOOH

THAT
PRECIOUS
DATA OF
YOURS.

IT MUST
HAVE
BURNED
TO A CRISP
BY NOW.

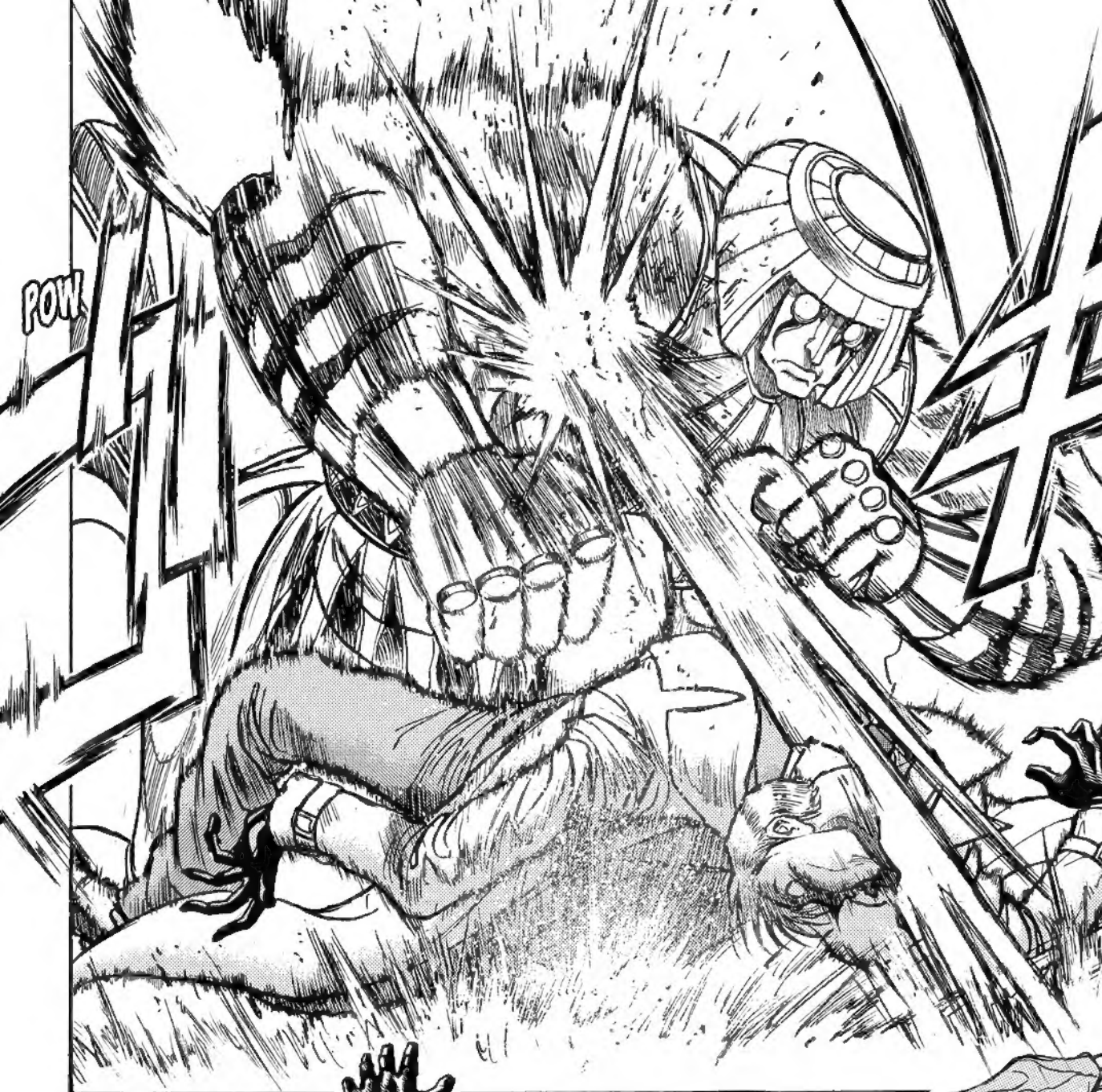


15

YOU LOST.

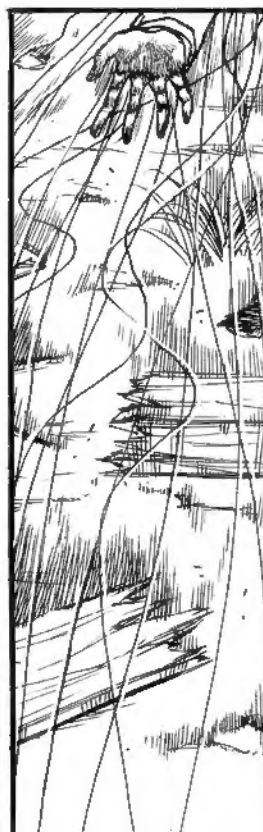
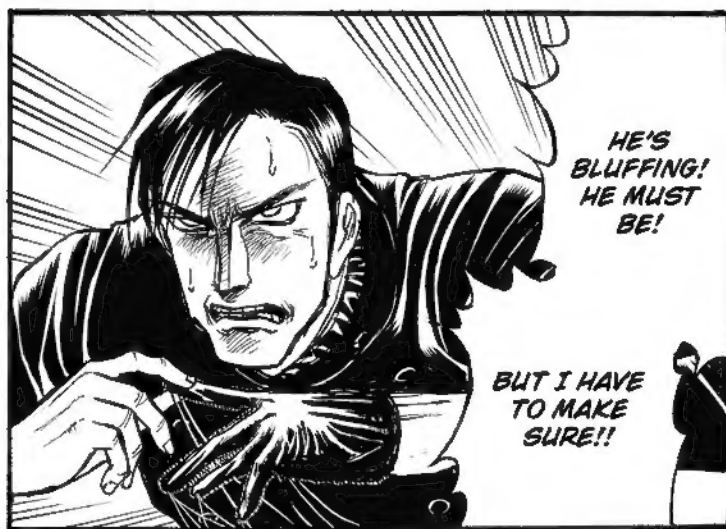
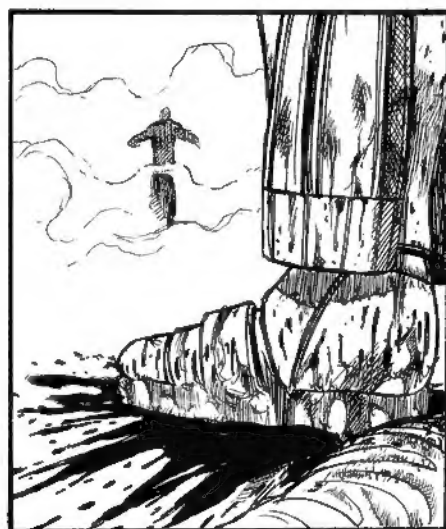
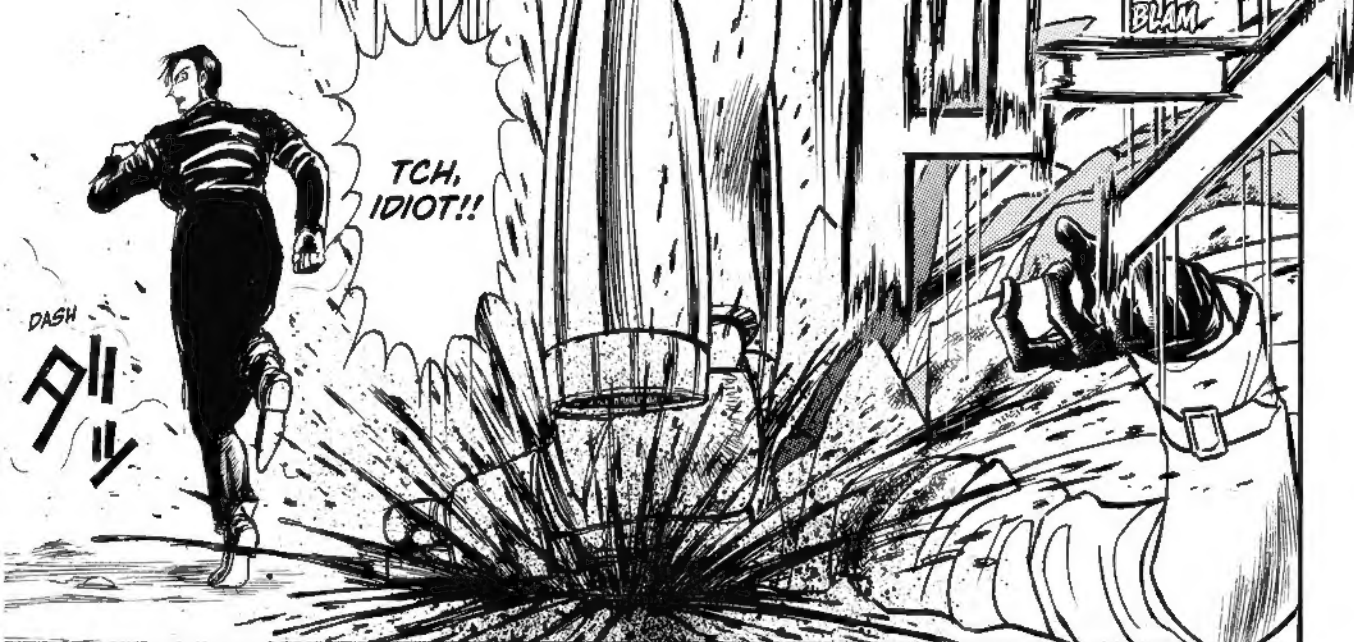
S-
SHOU-
JIII!!





16



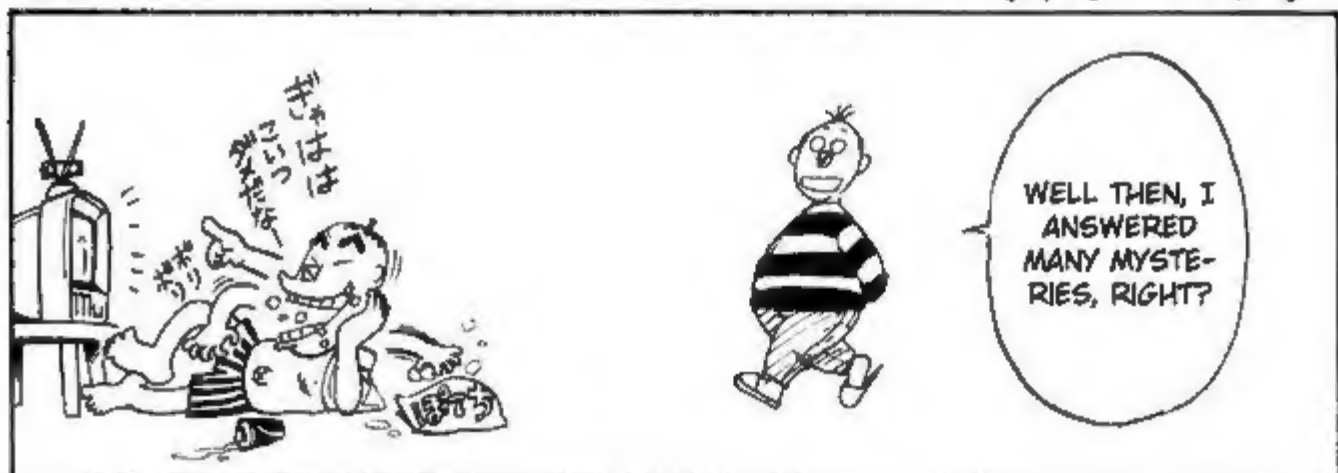




18



関係者の次巻への心意気。ふざけとスワフ



ちょっと まいてね。今 かがせろから...     